



Killing Comparison | Shawn Johnson | 10.07.2023

Weekly Study

## SHARE

This week Pastor Shawn delivered the week 5 message, *Killing Comparison*, during our Alive & Free series. Our key verse (John 10:10) continues to be a focal point of the series. Jesus came that we may have life and life to the full, but the enemy does everything he can to steal, kill, and destroy that vision for our life. One of the ways he does that is through comparison. The tricky thing about comparison is that it starts out so small in one area of our life, and slowly begins to infect other areas, stealing our joy, hardening our hearts, and killing our capacity for gratitude. Shawn reminds us that we have the opportunity to reclaim who we were called to be when we confront why we feel the need to compare ourselves to others in the first place.

**Share one small thing that made you smile this week and one big thing you're grateful for in your life.**

**What has been your biggest takeaway from this series so far?**

**What's sustaining you right now? (interpret that however you want)**

## GROW

### **Read Hebrews 12:1-2**

Shawn made three key observations from Hebrews 12. First, comparison weighs us down and keeps us from experiencing the life Jesus has set before us. Second, comparison, left unchecked, has the tendency to shift our path away from what God originally designed specifically for us, and instead, leads us to imitate the lives of people we are comparing ourselves to which leaves us wildly off track. And last, comparison draws our eyes away from Jesus and fixes them on things that we were never meant to focus on. We can't run our own race if we're too busy looking back at someone else's life. To run the race set

before us to the best of our ability, Shawn encourages us to set time aside to take inventory of who we are and where we're at.

**What is something Shawn said during the message that really spoke to you? Explain.**

**What kind of things, people, blessings, lifestyles, etc. do you find yourself frequently comparing yourself to?**

**What emotions come up when you realize you're comparing your life to someone or something else? (Fear, anger, jealousy, anxiety, inadequacy, discouragement, sadness, etc.) Why do you think you experience those emotions specifically?**

M O V E

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:15:26**

It's easy to desire the lives other people live, want what they have, and become bitter about the blessing we see in their life when we don't see it in ours. If this goes left unchecked, we can quickly lose sight of the fact that we were fearfully and wonderfully made with a specific purpose and calling laid out before, and instead we spend every waking moment striving to become someone we're not and act contrary to how we were designed because it's how we think we will feel like we're enough. One of the most beautiful things about us is that we were each made in the image of God while all being made impossibly unique to fill a role and run a race that only we were designed for.

**What part of the passage do you relate to the most? What is your biggest takeaway?**

**What are you absolutely called to do? Who are you absolutely called to be?**

**What are three things you can do this week to surrender your comparison and reclaim your fully authentic self?**

P R A Y

God, we thank you for everything we are and everything we have. As we go through this week will you help us fix our eyes back on you and the promises you have for our life rather than the things in other people's lives that we wish we had for ourselves. Help us let go of our need to compare ourselves to others and free us up to boldly and confidently run the race that you have set before us.